

their dependents in presenting claims to the Veterans' Administration, perpetuate the memory of those who died during war, teach lessons of patriotism and love of country, and inspire respect for the flag in the youth of America.

The Gold Star Mothers of El Paso remind us of the never-ending bond between families. They remind us of the sacrifice that families of veterans make as they endure the fears and concerns of having loved ones overseas, and the loss from loved ones who never return.

As Veterans Day memorials take place this week throughout the nation, the Jefferson High School commemoration is a special event honoring the incredible sacrifice and service of one community. The twelve Vietnam Veteran classmates of 1967, are part of a larger number of Jefferson High School veterans who served and risked their lives for American values and ideals. These men and women reflect an El Paso community which maintains a long history of distinguished military service with the presence of Fort Bliss. Our community of veterans includes those from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf and other conflicts where American troops have stood against totalitarianism and threats to our national security.

The Jefferson High School ceremony also reminds us of our young men and women who are currently deployed around the world. These fine soldiers are our nation's first line of defense and they protect our interests and allies whether they are in Bosnia, the Middle East, Korea, or Europe. The incredible freedom we enjoy in these times of prosperity is a direct consequence of the service of these brave men and women and the veterans who preceded them throughout this century. We should be grateful for their commitment and dedication and never take for granted the high price they and their families pay to defend our liberty.

On this the fiftieth anniversary of Jefferson High School, let us remember the duty, honor, and sacrifice made by the graduates of this school, by their families, and the community that supports and honors them.

Veterans Day asks all Americans to take stock in this nation's incredible opportunities and freedoms, and urges us to always remember our courageous veterans.

God bless these veterans and their families.

#### CONGRATULATING ERIC LEWIS

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Eric Lewis from Camden, New Jersey on winning the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition. As a Camden native, Mr. Lewis has brought great pride both to the city of Camden and to the entire state of New Jersey, as well as to musicians all over world. In addition to his exceptional musical talents, Mr. Lewis obviously shares a commitment to his community. Mr. Lewis has pledged to donate ten percent of his winnings to his local church. This unselfishness and generosity is a testament to Mr. Lewis' character and an ex-

ample to all. I have confidence that he will use his exceptional talent to give back to his neighbors and community. Once again, hats off to Mr. Eric Lewis on this outstanding accomplishment.

#### PARENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT TOXIC RISKS TO THEIR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

#### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help protect our children from illness and disease that can result from chemical exposure to pesticides. My legislation, the School Environment Protection (SEPA) Act, addresses the need for schools to provide protective action from the effects of pesticide use in school buildings and on school grounds.

Parents entrust their children's safety to schools and have the right to know what toxic substances their children are being exposed to. There are safe alternatives to the use of dangerous chemicals as pesticides and herbicides. This bill would encourage schools to use integrated pest management techniques that have proven to be safe and effective. In the event that potentially dangerous chemicals would have to be used, this Right to Know Act will require our schools to inform parents of any risk to which their children would be exposed. My proposal will take simple steps to ensure children's safety in the place where they spend most of their time, school.

When it comes to pesticide exposure, children are one of the least protected groups. Due to their small size, children take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and are also less likely to detoxify toxic chemicals through their still developing organ systems.

The National Academy of Sciences Report, Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children, found that the current EPA generally lacks data on children's susceptibility to pesticide exposure that would allow them to provide adequate standards necessary to protect children. The EPA is beginning the process to review pesticides, however, this could take them months or even years. Meanwhile, schools are frequently using pesticides that have the potential to harm our children's physical and mental development. Maryland schools reported 94% of their school districts surveyed used pesticides that have been linked to cancer. Similar results were yielded in California with 93% of its school districts surveyed using pesticides known for causing cancer. This usage can be a serious detriment to our children's health. We do not have time to wait for the EPA's results. According to the National Cancer Institute, childhood cancer has increased over 1 percent a year. Too many of our children's health and lives are at risk now and in the future.

Studies have shown that children living in households where pesticides are used suffered elevated rates of soft tissue sarcoma, leukemia and brain cancer. A study done by Childhood Leukemia and Parents' Occupational and Home Exposures found that in homes where pesticides were used a 3.8-fold

higher risk of childhood leukemia was likely and when pesticides were used in the garden a 6.5-fold higher risk was reported.

Some states have taken action to combat this ever-growing problem, however state protection is uneven and children in 20 states have no protection at all from these potentially deadly chemicals.

My SEPA legislation will require the use of the safest pesticides in and around our schools. All pesticides that have been determined to cause cancer, mutations, neurological and immune system effects and other serious toxic effects will be excluded from use in schools. Schools may use conventional pesticides if less toxic substances cannot control or prevent a pest as long as the school community is given at least 24 hours notice of application.

Several national and regional groups have already come out in support of my bill. This includes the National Education Association, Children's Health Environment Coalition, Citizens for a Better Environment, New Jersey Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides and the New Jersey Environmental Federation.

SEPA will force our nation to better protect all our children from unnecessary chemical effects and assist our youth in living healthier, longer lives. I urge all my colleagues to join in this "Right to Know" effort by supporting the School Environmental Protection Act.

#### RELIEF FOR AKAL SECURITY

#### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would allow a business, Akal Security, located in Santa Cruz, New Mexico, to receive payment for services it performed for the United States Government almost a decade ago.

In the Spring of 1991, Akal Security performed guard services as emergency work during the Desert Storm situation. Specifically, security services were performed at a record storage site located in St. Louis, Missouri. The storage site was leased to the Army Corps of Engineers and was further leased to the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN). The services were orally ordered by the United States Corps of Engineers for the month of March, 1991.

On April 3, 1991, Akal submitted its invoice for \$10,208.74 for services performed. After multiple requests, the Department of the Army has still not paid the bill owed. To date, there has never been any question that the services were in fact ordered by the COE and rendered by Akal Security.

In December, 1992, the Deputy General Counsel of the Department of the Army notified Akal Security that the guard services could not be procured because it could cause a violation of 10 U.S.C. Sec 2465. This section provides that the "Department of Defense may not be obligated—for the purpose of entering into a contract for the performance of—security-guard functions at any military installation or facility." The only recommendation of the Deputy General Counsel was that Akal could seek private relief legislation.

Mr. Speaker, correspondence from a Colonel Greiling in 1995 indicates that the Army

Reserve Personnel Center had information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation that ARPERCEN records storage sites could possibly be a target for terrorist activity. In consideration of the information from the FBI and the subsequent oral request made by the Corps of Engineers, Akal Security acted responsibly and deserves compensation for the services performed during a time of heighten national security.

After researching this issue and being in contact with the Department of Defense, I have come to the conclusion that an Act of Congress is needed to pay for these services that were incurred. This bill only concerns the invoice amount of 1991 and does not concern interest on the principle since then.

The introduction of this bill today is the continuance of an effort that was begun in earlier years. This bill is identical to a bill that was introduced in the last Congress by my predecessor, Congressman Bill Redmond.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for your consideration of this matter and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER NIETCH

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christopher Nietch for his excellence in coastal and marine study. Through dedication and hard work, Mr. Nietch has found unique methods and helped create new equipment to aid in the study of coastal marshland research.

Mr. Nietch's research focuses on the nutrient and carbon biogeochemistry of marshes. He is aiding resource managers in determining the effects of land use and is exploring possibilities of unorthodox methods which hone the maximum possibility regarding the usage of coastal wetlands. His work is on the edge, not only exploring, but pushing coastal marshland science to maximize the usage of marshlands.

Using different methods, Mr. Nietch aided in the creation of new equipment that makes the measurements necessary to study some 15 different marsh sites within four separate estuaries in South Carolina not only economical, but also practical and accurate. His findings have been circulated widely among his peers and colleagues within the coastal stewardship, which in effect allows other researchers, coastal resource managers, and policy makers to easily access his findings.

Mr. Nietch's work is a benchmark for future studies that would measure how much potential and access coastal wetland marshes have to offer society. His work has contributed to both the overall public awareness of how sensitive and valuable the coastal wetland marshes are and the necessity to further research and study the long-term management of these priceless resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and my fellow South Carolinians as we pay tribute to Christopher Nietch for his diligent work and hours of effort in researching coastal wetland marshes. He is a role model, and I wish him continued success in his new ventures.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BERTRAM BRINGHURST ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my constituent, the distinguished Mr. Bertram Bringhurst. Today, Mr. Bringhurst achieves two major milestones: the celebration of his 100th birthday and the award of France's highest honor, the Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honor.

Mr. Bringhurst was among the many bright, energetic young men who answered our nation's call to arms during World War One. At the tender age of 17 he struggled to survive the fierce battles at Chateau-Thierry and Argonne Forest as well as poison gas attacks. Upon returning from France, Mr. Bringhurst set about living his life, starting and raising a family and being an honorable member of his community. According to his family, he spoke little of his time in France. However, the memories that he did share, the memories of German soldiers who died clutching photos of their children, clearly demonstrate his compassion for all mankind.

Today, Mr. Bringhurst will celebrate his 100th birthday at the Castle Point Veterans Hospital in Beacon, New York, surrounded by his family and friends. Mr. Bringhurst will also have a special guest at his birthday party—the French Consul will be on hand to present him with the French Legion of Honor in honor of his service in France in World War One. This is a fitting tribute to a great man.

Mr. Speaker, I feel a debt of gratitude to Bertram Bringhurst for the role he has played in our nation's history. As a veteran, I take great pride in being associated with a man of his caliber. As an American, I am proud that Mr. Bringhurst will get the accolades he deserves for his service in France.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 900, GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 4, 1999*

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for printing in the RECORD:

Unitary thrift holding companies—Section 401 closes the unitary thrift holding company loophole that permits commercial firms to acquire thrifts. This section contains a grandfather provision that permits a company that was a savings and loan holding company on May 4, 1999, or had an application on file as of that date, to acquire and continue to control a thrift and engage in commercial activities. It should be recognized that this exception to the general prohibitions in section 401 on commercial firms owning thrifts applies only to companies that owned or controlled thrifts as of that date (or pursuant to an application pending as of that date) and not to any subsequent acquirer of a grandfathered unitary thrift holding company.

The intention of the conferees on this matter is very clear from the plain language of

section 401. First, section 401 provides that no company may acquire a thrift after May 4, 1999, unless the company is engaged only in financial activities. Second, a company that does acquire a thrift after May 4, 1999 may not engage in commercial activities. As such, a grandfathered unitary thrift holding company could not be acquired by another commercial firm or financial firm and retain its commercial activities. A financial firm could not acquire a grandfathered unitary thrift holding company engaged in commercial activities unless such activities are divested because the acquiring financial firm would then be engaged in commercial activities directly and indirectly in violation of section 401.

Insurance company portfolio investments—New section 4(k)(4)(I) of the Bank Holding Company Act permits insurance company subsidiaries of financial holding companies to acquire equity interests in nonfinancial companies ("portfolio companies"). Such acquisitions, however, must represent an investment made in the ordinary course of the insurance company's business and must be made in accordance with relevant state insurance law. The Act also prohibits a financial holding company from routinely managing or operating a portfolio company held pursuant to this section, except as necessary to obtain a reasonable return of the investment. It has been suggested that this would permit officer overlaps between the financial holding company and the portfolio company held under the authority granted by this section. This is not the case. The restriction in fact was intended to prohibit financial holding companies from becoming involved in the day-to-day operations or management of a portfolio company, except in unusual circumstances, and thereby maintain the Act's general prohibition on the mixing of banking and commerce. Since the officers of a company are involved in the day-to-day management of the company's affairs, officer interlock between a financial holding company and a portfolio company would, in most circumstances, involve the holding company in the routine management and operation of the portfolio company. Director interlocks, on the other hand, would properly allow a financial holding company to monitor its investment as long as the director was not involved in the day-to-day management of the portfolio company.

#### CT-43A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SETTLEMENT ACT

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been three and a half years since my constituent, Adam Darling, died. He died on the same airplane that carried the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown. Together, they and 33 others perished on the side of a cold, dark mountain outside of Tuzla, Croatia.

Since that fateful day, the families of the victims of that crash have sought redress with the government, first through the Air Force, then through the Department of Commerce, and now with Congress. It is for that reason that today I and more than 30 bipartisan members of this body, introduce this bill. We introduce this bill in the name of justice and in the name of every person who died in this crash. And for me, I introduce this bill in the memory